

be able to become a free and united nation. And as a free and united nation, Cyprus will grant stability to a volatile area of the world where the United States has crucial interests.

Mr. Speaker, during my years in congress, I have worked diligently on behalf of the Greek and Cypriot community to help locate family members lost during the Turkish invasion and advocated for the removal of the barbed wire which prevents the restoration of a independent and united Cyprus.

This Congress has let the issue of Cyprus remain quiet for too long. I ask my colleagues to show their strong support for a united Cyprus.

TURKEY INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 27th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

As Greek-Cypriots in America and around the world gathered last week to mark a tragic day in their nation's history, it is proper and fitting that we in this body join them in the hope that peace will soon return to their island nation.

As we gather on the floor of the House to mark the 27th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, 37 percent of that country remains occupied by Turkish military forces. It is equally unfortunate that five American citizens of Cypriot descent and over 1,600 Greek-Cypriots are still unaccounted for as a result of Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

We, in this Congress, have passed resolution after resolution urging Turkey to withdraw its forces from Cyprus. We have passed measures and written letters urging Turkish-Cypriot leaders to renounce "declarations of independence" that they have issued in defiance of international law. And in the United Nations, the United States has consistently and forcefully urged Turkey to end its military occupation of over a third of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

Yet despite these efforts, today, we remain far from a final settlement that will end the artificial division of Cyprus.

It is my belief that Congress has a solemn obligation to speak out and support a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution which must follow the precepts laid down in United Nations Security Council 1250, which was adopted on June 29, 1999 and which in part reads, "... a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty." In short, the U.S. House of Representatives should serve as a guiding force in the pursuit of a reunified Cyprus, an island nation where all citizens enjoy fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I am of the belief that the solution to the Cyprus problem resides in the will of the United States and the international community to renounce the violence that divided Cyprus over a quarter century ago and to affirm that the reunification of Cyprus is a priority.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by thanking the Co-Chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Representatives MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and CAROLYN

MALONEY for their exceptional work. I look forward to working with them in the 107th Congress to ensure that some day soon, the unification, not the division of Cyprus, will be commemorated in this body.

TURKEY INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as I have done every year, I rise again today to reiterate my fierce objection to the illegitimate occupation of the island of Cyprus by Turkish troops and declare my grave concern for the future of the area. The island's twenty-seven years of internal division make the status quo absolutely unacceptable.

In July 1974, Turkish troops captured the northern part of Cyprus, seizing over a third of the island. The Turkish troops expelled 200,000 Greek-Cypriots from their homes and killed 5,000 citizens of the once-peaceful island. The Turkish invasion was a conscious and deliberate attempt at ethnic cleansing. Turkey proceeded to install 35,000 military personnel. Today, these troops, in conjunction with United Nations peacekeeping forces, make the small island of Cyprus one of the most militarized areas in the world. Over a quarter of a century later, about 1,500 Greek-Cypriots remain missing, including four Americans.

The Green Line, a 113-mile barbed wire fence, separates the Greek-Cypriot community from its Turkish-Cypriot counterpart. The Turkish Northern Republic of Cyprus (TNRC), recognized by no nation in the world except for Turkey, prohibits Greek-Cypriots from crossing the Green Line to visit the towns and communities of their families. With control of about thirty-seven percent of the island, Turkey's military occupation has had severe consequences, most notably the dislocation of the Greek Cypriot population and the resulting refugees.

Twenty-seven years later, forced separation of these two communities still exists despite efforts by the UN and G-8 leadership to mend this rift between north and south. So far, the UN, with the explicit support of the United States, has sponsored six rounds of proximity talks between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, and Mr. Rauf Denkash, the self-proclaimed leader of the TNRC.

Regrettably, the implementation of any agreements has been thwarted by the intransigent position taken by Mr. Denkash, with the full backing of the Turkish Government. His refusal to participate in the UN sponsored talks until demands for the recognition of Northern Cyprus as a separate state are met is unacceptable. Mr. Denkash has made it clear that his position on the issue is non-negotiable, leaving very little room for progress. In his recent testimony before the Senate Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee, Secretary of State Colin Powell specifically singled out Mr. Denkash as the main obstacle in developing a comprehensive solution to the problem.

Impressively, even with this division constantly taking center-stage, the Republic of

Cyprus has flourished and grown as an economy and society. Growth has been averaging 6% per year and its per capita income ranks near the top of all developed countries. Its unemployment rate of 3.6% is lower than that of the United States. It is a Europe-oriented nation that is of strategic, economic, and political importance to the region and to the rest of the world.

This success has brought Cyprus to a critical turning point in its history. For the first time, the people of Cyprus have the opportunity to seal their future by becoming part of the European Union which is about to accept a large number of new members. Upon accession to the European Union, Cyprus will, in its capacity as a full member, be firmly anchored to the western political and security structures, enhancing both geographically and qualitatively the operational capabilities of the Western world.

The Republic of Cyprus and the United States share a common tradition of respect for human rights, a faith in the power of democratic institutions, and a commitment to free market economics. Our two governments have similarly had close ties. Consequently, it is in the interest of the United States to see a strong and vibrant Cyprus which will enhance the future strength of our alliance. To that end, the most meaningful way to ensure that outcome is to promote Cyprus's membership in the European Union.

Union membership for Cyprus also has the potential to resolve some of the ongoing disputes in the Mediterranean region. At the European Council meeting in Helsinki in December 1999, Turkey was granted the status of a candidate country for accession to the EU. In accordance with the Accession Partnership Document of Turkey, which was endorsed by the European Council meeting in Nice in December 2000, Turkey must strongly support the UN Secretary General's efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the process of finding a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The European Council decision taken in Helsinki in December 1999 also states that the Council's decision on accession for Cyprus will not be preconditioned on a settlement to the Cyprus problem. On the other hand, it is understood that accession negotiations with Turkey cannot begin until Turkey complies with the stipulations and conditions laid down by the European Council decisions in Helsinki, Copenhagen and Nice.

The United States government has strongly supported the Helsinki Conclusions both on the issue of Cyprus' accession and Turkey's candidacy for membership and should continue to do so. Additionally, serious efforts have been undertaken by the UN Secretary General to resume negotiations between the two communities in Cyprus. These efforts have always enjoyed the full support of the United States.

It is obvious that resolution of the perennial dispute between Greece and Turkey on Cyprus remains the key to a successful and lasting settlement of the problem. Although the Helsinki decision does not consider a Greco-Turkish agreement on Cyprus a precondition for the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union, such an agreement would remove any obstacles to the accession of Turkey to the European Union, benefitting all parties concerned in the current dispute.

First, it will act as a catalyst in resolving the problem of Cyprus, which has been poisoning the relations among the parties to the conflict, their NATO allies, and the United States. Second, improvement in the relations between Greece and Turkey will also strengthen the South-Eastern flank of NATO so it can function in its full capacity, unhindered by ancient frictions that have virtually prevented any co-operation between the two allies at periods in the past.

Third, an agreement between the conflicting parties will enhance stability and security in two troubled regions of the world, the Middle-East and the Balkans. These areas are vital to the national interests of the United States and any stabilizing influence might serve to facilitate other peace agreements.

In pursuing this goal, it should be made clear to the Turkish leadership and Mr. Denktash that their position on these issues is unsatisfactory. No effort should be made to appease the Turkish-Cypriot leader in order to entice his return to the negotiating table. Not only should he return, but he should negotiate in good faith in order to reach a comprehensive settlement within the framework provided for by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes the establishment of a bizonal, bi-communal federation with a single international personality, sovereignty, and a single citizenship.

It would also be in the best interest of Turkey to cooperate with the United Nations and the rest of the international community on Cyprus in order to advance its own membership in the European Union. In addition, Turkey spends more than \$200 million annually to sustain northern Cyprus; it also maintains 35,000 of its own troops illegally in the region. With settlement on the matter of Cyprus, this huge financial obligation will be removed. Northern Cyprus will perhaps be the greatest beneficiary of Cypriot membership and resolution of the entire affair. It is currently in a state of economic distress, being bolstered only by Turkish support. By joining the rest of Cyprus, it would become part of an already progressive economy, eliminating its financial dependence on Turkey.

So far we have seen that both Turkey and Mr. Denktash have sought to create preconditions on Cyprus' accession by tying that process to the resolution of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. The United States should remind Turkey that any threat against the Republic of Cyprus will be met with strong determination and opposition and that Turkey does not possess any veto power over European Union membership. Promotion of Cyprus' membership will remove what has been a stumbling block in comprehensive settlement negotiations, and it will allow Turkey to strive toward the laudable goal of its own accession.

We are all standing at the threshold of a historic opportunity that will shape the futures of generations of Cypriots, Greeks, and Turks. We have a responsibility to these ensuant generations to secure their futures by contributing to the efforts to create a peaceful world.

It is precisely to stress the above stated points that I have felt compelled to submit House Concurrent Resolution 164 which expresses the United States' support for Cyprus' admission to the European Union according to the Helsinki Conclusions of 1999 which state that while a solution to the political crisis in Cyprus is preferable prior to EU accession, it is not a precondition for entry.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral and ethical obligation to use our influence as Americans to reunify Cyprus—as defenders of democracy, and as defenders of human rights. There have been twenty-seven years of illegitimate occupation, violence, and strife; let's not make it twenty-eight.

DR. ORNISH'S LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on America's battle with heart disease. The Government Reform Committee, which I Chair, has been conducting an oversight investigation into the role of complementary and alternative therapies in our health care system. Dr. Dean Ornish has testified before our Committee. His program prevents heart attacks and strokes—not through expensive medication or surgery—but through lifestyle modification like diet, stress management and yoga.

It's innovative, low cost, non-invasive, and scientifically proven to be effective. Scientific research has demonstrated that Dr. Ornish's program not only helps prevent heart problems like arterial blockages, it actually reverses heart disease in people with serious conditions.

The Medicare program is currently conducting a pilot program to test Dr. Ornish's program on 1,800 Medicare patients. Last year, Congressman RANGEL and I introduced legislation to extend this demonstration program for two more years to make sure that all 1,800 patients can complete the program and be thoroughly evaluated. I really believe that this program can save lives, and save the Medicare program billions of dollars. At a time when HCFA has estimated that our health care costs will double by the year 2007, programs like this lifestyle modification program hold out real hope for reducing open-heart surgery and cutting down on the need for expensive prescription medications.

I salute Dr. Ornish for all of the hard work he has done on this issue for America.

45TH ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the faithful here in Los Angeles for the Forty-fifth Archdiocese Convention of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. In welcoming the diverse spiritual leaders of the Church that are gathering together, I especially want to recognize His Excellency, Issam Fares, Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon.

This biennial convention is an opportunity to share the history, cultural heritage and religious dedication of the members throughout North America. The convention is an opportunity for the Archdiocese to discuss social

issues facing families today. The work of Antiochian Orthodox Church through such programs as the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the bone marrow testing drive, health fairs and the Jerusalem Project, are the finest examples of the religious freedom that only we share in the United States.

I wish to congratulate the members of the Antiochian Orthodox community on their efforts and wish them many years of success in their work throughout the United States.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE KORBELIK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's outstanding public servants, Mr. Dave Korbek who recently announced his resignation as County Commissioner. Dave Korbek is a hard worker and has performed his elected duties with the highest degree of excellence. All who have been fortunate to know Dave speak of his deep commitment to his job and his community. I know Dave Korbek and am glad to say that he has been a strong advocate for the citizens of Kit Carson County. Dave's representation will be sorely missed.

Dave saw his job as both a public duty and a challenge. Leaving his home to accept his new post leading the Farm Bureau in Trinidad, Colorado was not an easy decision. His reflections in a recent edition of the Flagler News capture the difficult nature of his decision. "This was not an easy decision to make. Kit Carson County has always been my home, and my family's home, and it will always be where our roots are deeply planted."

Dave is a distinguished individual carrying out both his personal and professional life with the values of dignity, respect, reverence to God, and a dedication to serving the public. He is truly a fine example for all Americans.

A constituent of Colorado's 4th Congressional District in Colorado, Dave not only makes his community proud, but also those of his state and his country. It is a true honor to know such an extraordinary citizen and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to the community. I ask the House to join me in extending hearty congratulations to Mr. Dave Korbek.

PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the joyous occasion of the Peruvian Festival, 'Independence of Peru'. Peru is located in the southwestern section of South America and was a colony of Spain with other surrounding territories until 1821. After many ferocious battles against the Spanish army, Peru defeated Spain and gained their independence by becoming a democratic Republic on July 28, 1821. Peruvians in Cleveland have joined together year after year on this festive